

* Heer beginneth a mery Iest of
of the Frier and the Boy.



God that died for vs all,
and drank both eizell and gall,
Bying vs out of bale
And giue them good life and long
That listeneth to my song,

Oz tendeth to my tale
There dwelt an husband in my cuntrie
That had wiues thre,
By processe of time
By the first wife a sonne he had,
That was a good sturdy lad
And an happy hinde
His father loued him well
So did his mother neuer a deale
I tell you as I think
All she thought was lost by the rood
That did the little boy any good
Either meat oz drink



255

4^o C 39 A. Seld. (12) and

And yet I wis it was but bad
and ther of not half mough he had
But euer more of the woozst
Therfore euil mut she fare
For zuer she did the little boy care
As far forth as she durst
The good wife to her husband gan say
I would ye would put this boy away
And that right soon in haste
Cruely he is a curled lad
I would some other man him had
That could him better chaste
Then said the good man againe
Dame I shall to thee saine,
He is but tender of age
He shall abide with me this yere
til he be more stronger
For to win better wage
we haue a man a stout freke
That in the feild keepeth our nete
Sleeping all the day
He shall come home as God ma^r shall
And the boy shall into the feild
To keep our beasts if he may
Then saide the wife verament
thereto soon I assent
For that me thinketh moste needy
On the morrowe when it was day
the little boy went on his way
to the feild full redy
Of no man he had care
But sung hey ho we away the mare

and

and made ioy inough
fowth he went truely to saime
til he came to the plaine
his dinner fowth he drough
when he saw it was but bad
ful little lust therto he had
But put it by againe
Therfore he was not to wite
He saide he would eate but lite
til night that he home came
And as the boy sat on a hill
An olde man came him till
walking by the way
Sonne he saide God thee see
Sir welcome might ye be
The little boy gan say
The olde man said I hunger soze
hast thou any meat in stoze
that thou maiste giue to me
The childe said so God me saue
to such vitailles as I haue
welcome shall you be
Therof the olde man was glad,
the boy drew fowth such as he had
and saide do gladly
the olde man was easy to please
He eat and made him well at ease
And said Sonne gramercy
Sonne thou haste giuen meat to me
I shall giue thee things thre:
thou shalt them neuer forget
then said the boy as I trowe

It is best I haue a bowe
Birds for to shoot
I bowe sonne I shall thee giue,
That shall last thee all thy liue
And euer a like meet
Shoot therein when thou think
For if thou shoot and wink
The prick thou shalt hit
When the bowe in hand he felt
And the bolts vnder his belt
Loud then he lough
He said now had I a pipe
Though it were neuer so light
Then were I glad inough
I pipe sonne thou shalt haue also
In true musick it shall goe
I put thee out of doubt.
All that may thy pipe heere
Shall not them self steere
But laugh and leape about
What shall the third be
For I will giue thee things thre
As I haue said before
The little boy on him lough
And said sir I haue enough
I will desire no more
The olde man said my troth I plight
Thou shalt haue that I thee hight
Say one now and let me see
Then said the boy anon
I haue a stepdame at home
She is a thre to me

when

When my father glueth me meat
She would therewith that I were cheat
And stareth in my face
When she looketh on me so
I would she should a rap let goe
That might ring through the place
Then said the olde man tho
When she looketh on the so
She shall begin to blowe
All that euer it may heare
Shall not them selues star
But laugh all on a rowe
Farwell said the olde man
God keep you said the childe than
I take my leaue of the
God that moste best may
Keep the both night and day
Gramercy sonne said he
Then it dzeu towarde the night
Jack him hied home ful right
It was his ordinance
He took his pipe and began to blowe
All his beasts on a rowe
About him they can daunce
Thus went he pipping to the towne
His beasts followed him by the town
Into his fathers close
He went and put them bp eche one,
Home ward he went anon
Into his fathers hall he goes,
His father at Supper sat
Little Jack espied well that

Alis.

And

And said to him anon
father I haue kept your neat
I pray you giue me some meat
I am a hungred by Saint John
I haue sitten meatlesse
All this day keeping your beasts
My dinner feeble it was
His father took a Capons wing
And at the boy he gan it sling
and bad him eat apace
That graued his stepmothers hart sore
As I tolde you before
She stared him in the face
with that she let goe a blast
that all the hall were agast
It rang ouer the place
All they lough and had good game
the wife waxed red for shame
She would she had been gone
Quod the boy well I woot
that gun was well shot
as It had been a stone
Cursedly she looked on him tho
an other blast she let go
she was almoste rent
Quod the boy will ye see
How my dame letteth pellets flee
In faith or euer she stint
The boy saide vnto his dame
temper thy bum for shame
she was full of sorowe
Dame said the good man go thy way

for I sweare to thee by my fay
Thy geere is not to bozowe
Afterward as you shall heare
To the house there came a frier
that lay there all the night
the wife loued him as a Saint
And to him made her complaint
and tolde him all aright
we haue a boy within I wis
I shewe for the nonce he is
he dooth me much care
I dare not look him vpon
I am ashamed by Saint John
to tel you how I fare
I pray you meet the boy to morowe
beat him wel and giue him sorowe
and make the boy lame
Quod the frier I shall him bete
Quod the wife do not forget
he dooth to me much shame
I trowe the boy be some witch
Quod the frier I shall him teach
haue thou therof no care
I shall him teach if I may
Quod the wife I you pray
Doo him not spare
On the morowe the boy arose
Into the feild soon he goes
His beasts for to dreeue
The frier ran out out of the gate
He was a fraide he came to late
he ran fast and blithe

when

When he came vpon the land
Little Jack there he fand
Dyting his beasts alone
Boy he said God giue thee shame
What hast thou don vnto thy dame
Tell thou me anon.
But if thou excuse thee well
By my troth beat thee I will
I will no longer abide
Quod the boy what ayleth thee
My dame fareth as wel as þee
What needeth thee to chide
Quod the boy will you taret
How I can a bird shert
And other things withall
Sir he said though I be light
Ponder bird will I smite
And giue her to thee I shall
There sat a bird vpon a brier
Shoot on boy quoth the frier
For that me longeth to see
He hit the bird on the head
That she fel downe dead
No farther might she flee
The frier to the bush went
Up the bird for to hent
He thought it best for to be don
Jack took his Pipe and began to blowe
then the frier as I trowe
began to daunce ful soon
As soone as he the pipe heard
Like a wood man he farde

he

He lepte and daunced about
The byters scratcht him in the face
And in many an other place
that the blood brast out
And tare his clothes by and by
His cope and scaplery
And all his other wored
He daunced among the thornes thick
In many places they did him prick
that fast he gan to bleed
Jack piped and lough among
The frier in the thornes was thronyng
he hopped wondrous hie
At the last he held vp his hand
And said I haue daunced so long
that I am like to dye
Gentle Jack holde thy pipe still
And my troth I plight thee ill
I will doe thee no harme
Jack said in that tide,
Frier skip out on the other side
lightly that thou were gone
The Frier out of the bush went
all to ragged and to rent
and to nye on every side
Unneths on him he had a clowt
His belly for to wrap about
his harnes for to hide
The byters scratched him in the face
And in many an other place
He was all to bleed with blood
All that might the frier see

now

B.

were

were faine to flee
they wend he had been wood
when he came to his hoste
Of his iourney he made no hoste
his clothes werent all
Much sorowe in his hart he had
And every man him dyd
when he came into the hall
The wife saide where haste thou been
In an euill place I wene
me think by thine aray
Dame I haue been with the sonne
The deuil of hell him ouercome
For no man els may
with that came in the good man
The wife saide vnto him than
her is foule aray
Thy Sonne that is the life and day
Hath almoste slain the holy frier
Was now well away
The goodman said benedictie
what hath the boy don to thee
tel me without let
the frier said the deuil him sped
He caused me to daunce in anger my head
among the thorne a hee go bet
The good man saide vnto him then
Haddest thou lost the life so
It had been great shame
The frier said by our Lady
the pipe went so mery
that I could neuer thin

when

When it drewe toward the night
the boy came home full right
as he was wunt to be
when he came into the hall
Soone his father gan him call
and bad him come him to
Boy he said tel me heer
what haste thou doest into the frier
tell me without leasing
Father he said by my fay
I did nought els as I you say
but piped him a song
That pipe said his father would I hear
Mary God forbid said the frier
his handes did he wing
Yes said the good man by Gods grace
then said the frier out alas
and made great mourning
for the loue of God said the frier
If ye will that pipe heer
binde me to a poste
for I knowe none other read
And I daunce I am but dead
wel I wot my life is lost
Strong ropes they took in hand
the frier to the poste they band
in the middle of the hall
All they that at the table sat
Laughed and had good game therat
and said the frier would not fall
Then said the good man
Pipe somme as thou can

hardly when thou wilt
father he said so not I thee
haue you shall inough of glæ
till you bid me be still
As soon as Jack the pipe hent,
All that there were betrament
began to daunce and lepe
When they gan the pipe to heare
They might not theiuelues stee
but hurcled on a heape
The goodman was in no dispaire
But leapt out of his chaire
all with a goodly cheer
Some lept ouer the stock
some stumbled at a block
and some fel flat in the fier
The goodman had good game
How they daunced all in same
the good wise after gan step
Euermore she cast her eye at Jack
And fast her taile began to crack
Lo vnder then they could speak
The frier himself was almoste lost
for knocking his head against the post
he had none other grace
The rope rubbed him vnder the chin
that the blood down did rin
In many a diuers place
Jack ran into the street
After him fast did they lepe
truelly they could not stint
They went out of the doore so thich
that

That eche man fel in others neck
so pretily ouer they went
Neighbours that were fast by
Heard the pipe so metly
they ran to the gate
Some lept ouer the hatch
They had no time to drawe the lach
they thought they came to late
Some lay on their bed
and helde by their head
anon they were awaked
Some stert in the way
Truely as you say
Back belly naked
By that they were gathered about
Thwis there was a great rout
dauncing in the street
Some were lame and might not goe
But yet Thwis they daunced
on hands ond on feet
The boy said now I rest
Quod the good man I holde it best
with a mery cheer
Seace sonne when thou wilt
In faith this is the merrest fit
that I heard this seuen yer
they daunced all in same
Some laughed and had good game
and some had many a fall
Thou curled boy said the frier
Heer I summon thee to appere
Before the Officiall

B.ij.

look

Look thou be there on Friday
I will thee meet and Friday
for to ordaine thy forborne
The boy said by God awoo
friser I am as redy as thou
and Friday were to me
Friday came as you shall hear
Jacks stepdams and the friser
together there they met
folke gathered a great pece
To heare euery mans tale
the Officiall was set
There was much to do
Matters mo then one of them
both with Jakes and Jacke
Some had testaments to read
And faire women by your leue
that had strokes in the darke
Euery man put forth his case
then came friser Coptas
And Jakes stepdame also
Sir Officiall said he
I haue brought a boy to thee
which hath wrought me much to do
He is a great floureman
In all Diligence is he
as by my troth I trowe
He is a wylde quoth the boy
then as I shall tell you
lowd could he be
Some laughed withond face
Some said dame tempest thy tale

But to holde him still for his grace
And for the loue of his father
Then said Jack to them each one
If ye will graunt me with hart free
That they durme no billow
But hence to departe as I come
Therto they answered all anon
And promised him full right
In his quarell for to fight
And defend him from his foe
Thus they departed in that tide
The Officall and the Souldier
His stepdame and the Sister
With great ioy and much pryde.

The end of the first and the Boy

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